

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 CU-02 /068 W
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R 091755Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9712

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRE SANGUINETTI'S VIEWS ON FRANCE AND
THE WORLD

REF: PARIS 008878

SUMMARY. ALEXANDRE SANGUINETTI, FORMER MINISTER FOR
VETERANS AFFAIRS, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UDR
AND CURRENTLY DEPUTY IN THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
GAVE HIS VIEWS ON INTERNAL FRENCH POLITICS AND FRANCE'S
PLACE IN THE WORLD DURING A CONFERENCE ON APRIL 7 IN
PARIS. A QUINTESSENTIALLY HARD-LINE GAULLIST, SANGUI-
NETTI PAINTED A GRIM PICTURE FOR FRANCE AND THE WESTERN
DEMOCRACIES, BLAMING MORAL LAXITY AND THE ABSENCE OF
LEADERSHIP FOR THE WEST'S DECLINE. HE HAS ABSOLUTE FAITH
IN FRENCH INSTITUTIONS BUT FEELS THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD
D'ESTAING IS THE 20TH CENTURY EQUIVALENT OF LOUIS XIII.
HE TOOK A HARD LINE ON CURRENT SOCIAL UNREST IN FRANCE,
SUCH AS REVOLTS IN CORSICA AND THE MARSEILLE REGION.

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END SUMMARY.

1. EUROPE: SANGUINETTI OPENED HIS DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING HIS BELIEF THAT ALL THE CONDITIONS FOR WORLD WAR III HAVE EXISTED SINCE 1945 AND THAT ONLY THE ATOMIC BOMB HAS PREVENTED AN OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES. HE THINKS THE SOVIET UNION IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT US WEAKNESS TO UNDERMINE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES. IN THE SAME BREATH HE ACCUSED NATO OF ENCOURAGING EUROPEAN LAZINESS AND CALLED FOR A CONTINENTAL DEFENSE SYSTEM.

2. THE LEFT IN POWER IN FRANCE: SANGUINETTI BELIEVES THAT SHOULD THE LEFT COME TO POWER, FRENCH SOCIETY, AS IT NOW EXISTS, WOULD CRUMBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE LEFT DOES NOT WIN THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, MITTERRAND IS THROUGH. IF THE LEFT DOES WIN AND MITTERRAND BECOMES PRIME MINISTER, HE WILL HAVE TO NAME COMMUNISTS TO HIS CABINET. NOT TO DO SO WOULD PUSH THE FAR LEFT WING OF THE PARTY INTO THE COMMUNIST CAMP AND CAUSE AN IRREPARABLE BREACH BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SOCIALISTS.

3. THE UDR AND PRESIDENT GISCARD: SANGUINETTI FEELS THAT THE ADVENT OF CHIRAC TO THE POST OF COORDINATOR OF THE MAJORITY WAS INEVITABLE. THE UDR IS STILL GAULLIST IN THE STRICT SENSE OF THAT WORD AND STILL INCORPORATES THE ATTITUDES BEST SUITED FOR GOVERNING FRANCE. BUT SANGUINETTI EXPRESSED WORRY OVER CHIRAC'S INTIMATE ATTACHMENT TO VGE, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "ONE OF THE UNJUST WHO SUPPORT A JUST CAUSE." HE THINKS THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE HEAD OF THE EXECUTIVE ONLY, ABOVE POLITICS, AND QUOTED HIS OWN ALLEGED ADVICE TO PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC: "IT'S TIME YOU BECAME THE RICHELIEU OF LOUIS XIII."

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4. FRANCE AND THE WORLD: LIKE ALL GAULLIST BARONS, SANGUINETTI IS PREOCCUPIED BY A DROPPING BIRTH RATE IN FRANCE AND HOLDS IT RESPONSIBLE FOR A BROAD RANGE OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE THINKS THE WESTERN WORLD IS IN CRISIS AND LAMENTED THE CURRENT "UNCONTROLLED" LIBERALISM THAT LEADS TO COLLECTIVISM. IN HIS OPINION, PARLIAMENTS NO LONGER ATTRACT THE BEST MEN; ONLY 20 NATIONS TODAY OUT OF 145 CAN FAIRLY BE CALLED FREE. WESTERN SOCIETY IN GENERAL AND FRANCE IN PARTICULAR MUST RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES, MUST BECOME MORE AUTHORITARIAN IF THEY ARE TO AVOID A TOTALITARIAN DICTATORSHIP, BE IT LEFT OR RIGHT.

5. COMMENT: SANGUINETTI WAS SPEAKING BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OLIVAIN, A YOUNG POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUP WHICH HAS HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY. THE MEMBERS OF OLIVAIN, MOSTLY CONSERVATIVE, TOOK ISSUE
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WITH SANGUINETTI ONLY WHEN HE STARTED TO ATTACK "FLABBY YOUTH AFRAID TO LEAVE THEIR MOMMIES FOR MILITARY SERVICE." BY AND LARGE, HOWEVER, THE GROUP WAS IN STRONG SYMPATHY WITH "SANGUT'S" POINT OF VIEW AND FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH HIS THEORY THAT SOMEBODY MUST BEGIN RUNNING THINGS OR THE WEST IS DOOMED. THE FACT THAT THESE YOUNG WERE SO RECEPTIVE TO ARCH-CONSERVATIVE SANGUINETTI'S POINTS OF VIEW (EVEN HIS FEELING THAT CORSICAN AUTONOMISTS SHOULD BE LOCKED UP FOR SUBVERSION) INDICATES THAT HIS VOICE WILL PROBABLY BE HEARD ON A NATIONAL SCALE FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.
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